

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6-18 stand variously rejected in the outstanding Official Action. Claim 6 has been amended and therefore claims 6-18 remain in this application.

The Examiner's acknowledgment of applicant's claim for priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents is very much appreciated. Similarly, the Examiner's consideration of applicant's previously submitted prior art and its Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated.

Claims 6-18 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. The Examiner suggests that the use of the phrase "or" renders the claims indefinite and cites the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("MPEP") §2173.05(d). However, the Examiner has cited the wrong section of the MPEP, and the Examiner's attention is directed to §2173.05(h) and in particular the indication that the use of the word "or" in claims is acceptable and therefore not *per se* indefinite. However, this objection has been obviated by the above amendments to claim 6 which eliminate the use of the phrase "or" thereby obviating any further objection thereto. Accordingly, claims 6-18 now meet all requirements of 35 USC §112 and any further rejection thereunder is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Goodman (U.S. Patent 3,380,583). The Examiner suggests that Goodman teaches the method of "applying a bonding agent" and refers to Figures 1-7. However, Goodman does not teach the application of a bonding agent and in fact suggests that it would be

better not to utilize a bonding agent with the heat seal coating (see column 8, lines 36-47).

Additionally, even if Goodman taught applying a bonding agent, the bonding agent is applied to the film and not the backing board. Applicant's claim 6 specifies the application of the bonding agent to the backing board. Where or how the Examiner believes Goodman to teach this method step is not seen and clarification is requested.

Moreover, applicant's claim 6 specifies that the bonding agent is applied to the film and "not in a region adjacent to and extending around an area to be occupied by said at least one article." Applicant's invention specifies a margin around the article to be packaged where no bonding agent is applied. This then facilitates the ease of removal from the backing board as described in applicant's specification. Where or how the Examiner believes Goodman to teach any such margin without a bonding agent is not seen and clarification is requested.

With reference to claim 7, the Examiner suggests that column 4, lines 27-32 of Goodman teaches the air drying of the bonding agent. A review of column 4, lines 27-32 confirms that this portion of the specification has nothing to do with air drying a bonding agent. Clarification of the basis for the Examiner's rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Inasmuch as claim 6 recites a method step not shown or rendered obvious by the Goodman reference, the rejection of claims 6-14 and 18 as being anticipated by Goodman is respectfully traversed.

Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Goodman. Claims 15-17 ultimately depend from claim 6 and therefore are clearly non-obvious in view of Goodman. For example, Goodman actually teaches away from applicant's independent claim 6 in column 8, lines 36-42 by specifically requiring heat seal coatings to be applied to the plastic film materials rather than the backing boards. Moreover, Goodman contains no teaching of an absence of bonding agent in the vicinity of the article to be secured. Therefore, Goodman, in suggesting the bonding agent on the entire film, actually teaches away from applicant's claimed combination of method steps of applying the bonding agent to the backing board and not in the vicinity of the article as in applicant's unique packaging method. How or where the Examiner believes Goodman contains any suggestion for disregarding the Goodman teaching and instead applying a bonding agent, but not in a margin surrounding the article to be secured, is not seen and clarification is respectfully requested.

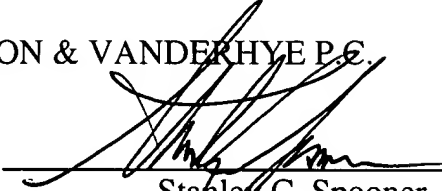
Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 6-18 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,

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